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Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have just learned of the death of Gordon Casey, and I want to extend to you and to Ralph Preston my deepest sympathy. I did not know Gordon personally, but I understand he was one of your key staff men and that he played an active role in the intelligence-related hearing on the day of his tragic accident.

It is always difficult to lose a friend and colleague, but particularly so when it is a young person. I hope you can find some measure of solace in the concern of friends.

Yours,

/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER

Honorable George H. Mahon,
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Gordon Casey, 34, on Staff of Hill Subcommittee

Gordon Eldon Casey, 34, a staff member of the defense subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, died of asphyxiation yesterday in an accidental fire at his home in Falls Church.

A Fairfax County police spokesman said a smoldering pipe apparently ignited a chair on the first floor after Mr. Casey had gone upstairs to bed. He was the sole occupant of the house.

Mr. Casey came to Washington in 1973 as a temporary staff member of the subcommittee and became a full-time employe the following year. He was responsible for reviewing the research and development budget of the Defense Department.

Rep. George H. Mahon (D-Tex.), chairman of both the Appropriations Committee and its defense subcommittee, called Mr. Casey an "invaluable asset" to the committee and praised his "depth of knowledge" on the Defense Department's research and development programs.

Born in Lovell, Wyo., Mr. Casey grew up in Casper. He attended Casper Junior College and graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1965.

He then joined the General Accounting Office as an auditor, working in the Denver regional office until 1970, when he was transferred as supervisory auditor to the Far East branch in Honolulu. He traveled extensively to

Korea, Okinawa, Taiwan, South Vietnam and Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, conducting GAO audits.

Mr. Casey was reassigned to the Denver office as supervisory auditor in 1972.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eldon A. Casey, and a brother, Curt John, of Casper, and a sister, Karlene Virginia Richards, of Denver.

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